

AUG 24 1970

808 Young Place  
Frederick, Maryland 21701  
19 August 1970

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
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Professor Lederberg:

You may recall that I wrote you in early March of this year concerning the U.S., CBW disarmament, and Fort Detrick. You were kind enough to reply, encouraging me to press the proposals in our concept study and suggesting that I contact Representative Zablocki, both of which I have done.

This past Sunday's Washington Post carried your article "Engineering Viruses for Health or Warfare," which included remarks you made recently to the disarmament conference committee in Geneva. Once again, I was encouraged by your rational approach to the total problem--something that has been almost totally lacking elsewhere.

When I last wrote a short thank-you note for your encouragement, I expressed a glimmer of hope that both a more rational approach to the problem and some consideration for the people involved might be forthcoming. Developments since that time, and particularly in recent weeks, have shredded the last vestiges of both those hopes.

Consequently, I thought you might find some more recent information on the entire situation of some interest. If nothing else, it may give you some feel for what is happening to a small community of your professional colleagues (a group, incidentally, in which I do not include myself). I am inclosing the following materials:

1) My letter of 9 July to Representative Beall (R, Md.) and his reply of 14 July. This includes a rather interesting editorial on BW that appeared in a science fiction magazine and also the first of a 3-part series of articles on Fort Detrick's contributions to science and technology.

2) A letter from Rep. Beall dated 24 July.

3) My letters of 4 & 6 August to Rep. Beall and his reply dated 11 August.

4) My letter of 14 August to Rep. Beall. This includes the second of the 3-part series of articles on Detrick's contributions to science and technology, the one which I consider the more important of the three.

5) A news article that appeared in the local paper after I had composed my 14 August letter to Rep. Beall.

You will find that these materials paint a rather bleak picture of the future for the professional community at Fort Detrick. I can only say that this is one time that I would be overjoyed to be wrong, but I have no confidence that it will turn out that way.

Again, my thanks for a ray of rational light on an otherwise emotionally clouded issue.

5 Inclosures  
as stated

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Magaha". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

E. Paul Magaha, Jr.

P.S.: As I sat here typing this with the radio playing in the background, I heard a news report that included a brief announcement of Dr. DuBridge's resignation as Science Advisor to the President, which makes one more major player to add to the one paragraph in my 14 August letter to Rep. Beall.